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TRIBAL DONATION TO BENEFIT INDIAN SCHOOL LOCATED ON SOBOBA RESERVATION

\$100,000 Will Assist Noli Indian School with Purchase of Educational Materials and Supplies

San Manuel Indian Reservation (Highland, Calif.) – November 3, 2009 – The San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians announced today that it has made a gift of \$100,000 to Noli Indian School, a private alternative middle and high school and California’s first Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) funded grant school. The gift will support the school’s mission to provide a quality education for students from the 20 sovereign Indian nations it serves.

“We share a belief with Noli Indian School that education and culture are fundamental to the development of native youth,” said San Manuel Chairman James Ramos. “Once you attain a degree or learn to practice your culture this knowledge becomes a part of who you are and can never be taken away.”

Monies received from this donation will be used to purchase textbooks, computers, and sporting equipment, campus safety materials and other necessary supplies that will be used for the benefit of the entire student body.

“Since opening our doors in 1990 Noli has experienced rapid enrollement growth and expects to continue expanding to assure positive educational outcomes for the communities we serve,” said Noli School Principal Donavan Post. “San Manuel’s donation will allow us to grow to accommodate more students and offer them high quality programs and materials.”

The school’s population consists primarily of students from the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians, but also serves many tribes from Southern California including San Manuel, Morongo, Cahuilla, Pechanga, Pala, Pauma, La Jolla, Rincon, Augustine, Ramona, Torres Martinez, and Los Coyotes reservations.

A unique aspect of the school is its focus on Native American culture. To graduate from Noli School, all students must complete course work in cultural studies and provides an array of activities for student, staff, parent and community involvement.

Noli instructors and students have been involved and provided expertise for the week long California Indian Cultural Awareness Conference held annually by San Manuel at Cal State San Bernardino to coincide with the California Native American Day state holiday www.nativeamericanday.com.

About the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

The San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians is a federally recognized American Indian tribe located near the city of Highland, Calif. The Serrano Indians are the indigenous people of the San Bernardino highlands, passes, valleys and mountains who share a common language and culture. The San Manuel reservation was established in 1891 and recognized as sovereign nation with the right of self-government. Since time immemorial, the San Manuel tribal community has endured change and hardship. Amidst these challenges the tribe continued to maintain its unique form of governance. Like other governments it seeks to provide a better quality of life for its citizens by building infrastructure, maintaining civil services and promoting social, economic and cultural development. Today San Manuel tribal government oversees many governmental units including the departments of fire, public safety, education and environment.

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